

REMARKS

Claims 23 through 30 and 39 through 41 have been allowed.

Claim 40 has been amended to correct a typographical error in the dependency thereof. Claim 42 has been canceled to obviate the objection noted by the Examiner.

The Examiner rejected independent Claim 31 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Takeda reference and under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by the Kotusa reference. These rejections are respectfully traversed. Independent Claim 31 defines the invention as a coupling including a first yoke including a plurality of first yoke arms, a second yoke including a plurality of second yoke arms, and a flexible body defining an axis. The body includes a first plurality of bushings connected to the plurality of first yoke arms, a second plurality of bushings connected to the plurality of second yoke arms, and a plurality of tensile members connecting the first plurality of bushings with said second plurality of bushings. Each of the first plurality of bushings has a pair of grooves formed in an outer surface thereof, and each of the pair of grooves receives one of the plurality of tensile members.

The cited references do not show or suggest this structure. Specifically, the Takeda reference discloses a flexible shaft coupling that includes a plurality of hollow cylindrical connecting elements 12 and 13. A pair of bobbin-shaped collars 17 are press fit on each of the connecting elements 12 and 13, and tensile members 15 are received within the bobbin-shaped collars 17. Thus, the Takeda reference does not show or suggest grooves formed in the outer surfaces of the bushings, as specifically claimed. The Kotusa reference discloses a similar structure and is similarly deficient. Thus, it is believed that independent Claim 31, and dependent Claims 32 through 38, are patentable over the art of record.

Respectfully submitted,



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